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REP. KATE HOGAN'S SENIOR NEWS



Now what? What to expect after you've received the COVID-19 vaccine

Congratulations! If you're one of the first priority groups in Massachusetts to receive the COVID-19 vaccine, I applaud and appreciate you for taking steps to make everyone in our community safer and healthier.

If you haven't received your vaccine yet and would like assistance making an appointment, call 2-1-1 to speak with a representative. Hearing impaired residents can use Mass Relay (7-1-1), the toll-free nationwide number that gives everyone access to relay services.

If you've received your full vaccination, you may be wondering what happens now and if you can get back to "normal" already. Here's what the experts say:

Immunity isn't instantaneous Don't expect instant immunity after your shots. We will remain susceptible to COVID-19 within 14 days of getting the first shot, so it's important to remain vigilant during that 14-day window.

Immunity isn't 100% Even after they're fully vaccinated, not everyone is immune. The vaccine is 95% effective, which means that 1 in 20 people is not going to be fully immunized. However, even though it's not 100% effective in preventing infection, it is effective in preventing severe infection and death, which is very reassuring.

Keep Protecting Yourself We know that more contagious strains of the virus are spreading, so you'll need to be vigilant with mask-wearing and other infection-prevention measures until you are fully vaccinated.

Protect Others It's still not clear whether those who are vaccinated could still be carriers and transmit the virus to others, though we expect to know more in a month or two. Until then, continue to wear a mask and practice social distancing.

Gather safely If you have plans or would like to get together with others who have been vaccinated, please do so safely and take basic precautions, like keeping masks on, staying distanced and making sure there is proper ventilation.

Know that the future will be brighter Masking requirements aren't likely to go away before summer, but vaccinations, warmer weather, and increased knowledge will make summer look more normal.

For the latest information on COVID-19 and vaccinations, check <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-updates-and-information> and for answers to personal questions and concerns, contact your physician.

Contact Rep. Hogan: If you need assistance or would like to contact me, please call me at (617) 722-2199 or email me at Kate.Hogan@mahouse.gov.

"Wherever you go, whatever you do, may the luck of the Irish be there with you!"

Erin go bragh!

Kate Hogan, State Representative
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